

APOLLO IRON & STEEL WORKS  
(Allegheny Ludlum Steel Works)  
U.S. Steel Corporation  
West of Washington and Lincoln avenues  
Vandergrift  
Westmoreland County  
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-296

HAER  
PA  
65-VAND,  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

APOLLO IRON AND STEEL WORKS  
(Allegheny Ludlum Steel Works)

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Location: West of Washington and Lincoln avenues, Vandergrift, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

Date of Construction: 1895, 1900-1950s

Builder: George G. McMurtry

Present Owner: Allegheny Ludlum Steel

Present Use: steel making

Significance: Sheet steel maker also producing ingots and bar steel, became part of U.S. Steel in the early 20th century.

Project Information: In February, 1987, the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) began a multi-year historical and architectural documentation project in southwestern Pennsylvania. Carried out in conjunction with America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), HAER undertook a comprehensive inventory of Westmoreland County to identify the region's surviving historic engineering works and industrial resources.

Compiler: Gray Fitzsimons and Kenneth Rose, Editors

## History

In 1895, under the auspices of company president George G. McMurtry, the Apollo Iron and Steel Company constructed a steel works and houses for its employees at a site on the Kiskiminetas River, across from the town of Apollo in Armstrong County. Apollo Iron and Steel operated a works in Apollo that had been established in 1850, but moved to the Vandergrift site in 1894-95. McMurtry named the town Vandergrift after his friend and fellow stockholder Captain Jacob Vandergrift. Established to produce sheet steel, the Vandergrift works consisted of four Siemens regenerative open-hearth furnaces, one two-high reversing blooming mill, a large sheet mill, an annealing house, a galvanizing shop, and warehouses. The plant produced black and galvanized sheets, acid open hearth ingots, and sheet bars.

Formed in 1901, the United States Steel Corporation acquired and consolidated a number of steel concerns including the Apollo Iron and Steel Company. The Vandergrift works was operated by the American Sheet Steel Company, a U.S. Steel subsidiary. In late 1903 this firm was reorganized with another U.S. Steel subsidiary, the American Tin Plate Company, to form the American Sheet & Tin Plate Company, which ran the Vandergrift works. The Vandergrift works contained fifty furnaces for processing sheet and bar steel, eighteen double annealing furnaces, eight thirty-gross-ton acid open-hearth furnaces for making steel from iron ingots, twenty-nine hot sheet mills, fourteen cold sheet mills, one two-high 16" bar mill, one blooming mill, one stand of two-high mills, and eighteen galvanizing pots. The works produced acid open-hearth steel ingots (its annual capacity was 200,000 gross tons of ingots), sheet bars (160,000 tons per year), and black and galvanized sheets (150,00 net tons). The plant employed as many as 3,000 persons during the first three decades as a U.S. Steel subsidiary. A subsequent reorganization saw the Vandergrift works placed under U.S. Steel's largest steelmaking concern, the Carnegie Illinois Steel Corporation.

Following the completion in the 1930s of U.S. Steel's Irvin works, a facility also specializing in the production of sheet and strip steel, the Vandergrift works was operated in conjunction with Irvin and the Edgar Thomson works. The Edgar Thomson works eventually supplied much of the steel to both plants, the result of which was the elimination of the open hearth shop at Vandergrift. By 1980 Vandergrift was producing hot and cold-rolled steel sheets along with stainless and galvanized sheets and plates. The USX Corporation's steel-making division closed the Vandergrift works about 1986. Allegheny Ludlum Steel has recently purchased the property and is going to recommence production.

### Sources:

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ADDENDUM TO  
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W. of Washington & Lincoln Avenues  
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